

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /101 W
----- 089115

R 170930 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9572

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 00562

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: PUNJAB GOVERNOR WARNS AGAINST DEFIANCE OF SECTION 144

REF: LAHORE 0527

1. PUNJAB GOVERNOR GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR TOLD NEWSMEN AT LAHORE AIRPORT MAY 16 THAT ANY OPPOSITION ATTEMPT TO VIOLATE SECTION 144 WOULD BE FRUSTRATED BECAUSE GOVERNMENT PREPARED FOR ANY THREAT. EFFORT TO TOPPLE GOVERNMENT BY UNCONSTITUTIONAL MEANS WOULD BE MET STERNLY AND CONSEQUENCES WOULD REST ON OPPOSITION. ANY EFFORT CHALLENGE AUTHORITY OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVT WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN MANNER OPPOSITION WOULD NEVER FORGET.

2. PEOPLES' GOVT, KHAR CONTINUED, DID NOT BELIEVE IN UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATION, BUT WOULD GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO PRESERVE LAW IF OPPOSITION RESORTED TO METHODS ADVOCATED BY AIR MARSHALL ASGHAR KHAN. OPPOSITION WITHIN ITS RIGHTS TO EXPOSE GOVT FOR ITS FAILINGS, BUT NOT BY UNDEMOCRATIC METHODS. PPP ASSUMED POWER CONSTITUTIONALLY AND COULD BE REPLACED SAME WAY. SECTION 144 IMPOSED, GOVERNOR CONTINUED, BECAUSE HE HAD PROOF OPPOSITION PLANNED TO INCITE SECTARIAN TROUBLE, BUT THERE NO RESTRICTION ON LEGITIMATE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IF OPPOSITION PROMISED NOT TO EXPLOIT SECTARIAN ISSUE.

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3. ON SAME DAY, PRESS QUOTED UDF SEC GEN GHAFOR AHMED AS STATING GOVT HAD GIVEN UDF PERMISSION TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS MAY 20 IN LAHORE AND JUNE 1, 2, AND 3 IN LULTAN, LAHORE AND LYALLPUR, RESPECTIVELY. UDF INTENDED TO HOLD LAST THREE MEETINGS.

4. COMMENT: GOVERNOR AT AIRPORT TO WELCOME PRESIDENT BHUTTO, WHO CAME TO LAHORE FOR MEETING OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL. SINCE NEC USUALLY MEETS IN ISLAMABAD AND TRIP ANNOUNCED AT LAST MINUTE, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT BHUTTO USING NEC MEETING AS EXCUSE VISIT LAHORE IN ORDER TO COUNTER ACTIVITIES OF UDF WITH PPP LEADERS WHO WILL ALSO BE PRESENT FOR MEETING. IT RUMORED THAT HE HAS CALLED AZAD KASHMIR PRESIDENT SARDAR ABDUL QAIYUM KHAN TO MEET HIM IN LAHORE, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE BHUTTO UNHAPPY OVER AZAD KASHMIR ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION DECLARING AHMADIYA SECT TO BE MINORITY COMMUNITY (LAHORE 0527).
DECONTROL DEC 31, 1976
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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